

Jackson Pollock
Art Docent
Kindergarten

Materials Needed:

Watercolor paper (1 per student)
Watercolor paint and brush (one per student)
Cups for water
String
Straws
Paper Plate

Elements Covered:

Line
Color
Texture

Principles Included:

Balance/Harmony
Rhythm

Present Slideshow:

Demonstration:

For this demonstration make sure to lay the watercolor paper on a flat surface such as a table or desk. If nothing is available use a hard surface such as a clipboard or book and your lap.

1. Dip the paint brush into the water and gather some paint.
2. Show how the wet paint brush can be shaken over the paper to create drips.
3. Next show how the students can use gravity to have the wet paint drip down the paper by tilting it in different directions “actively” moving it.
4. Demonstrate how they can also use straws to blow the paint around on the paper while it is still wet.
5. Next, put some paint onto the paper plate and dip the string into it. Show how the string can be a “brush” to create color, lines and textures on the watercolor paper. Encourage the students to work from all sides of the piece. There is no top and bottom to this artwork. This lesson can be a little messy but watercolor cleans up easily and doesn’t stain.

Lesson: Excuse the students back to their work areas to work on their own Jackson Pollock inspired artwork. Talk to them about how Pollock used the WHOLE page or canvas, and didn't just paint in the middle. Tell them it's okay to run off the edges of the page. What kinds of textures and lines can they create? What happens when the paint runs together? Are they using one or two colors, or are they exploring more? How do they mix?

Wrap Up: Put the papers on a rack or table to dry (could take a while) and have the students help clean their brushes and water cups in the sink.

Sample:

